



AK
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Joint Information Center: (907)-463-2430

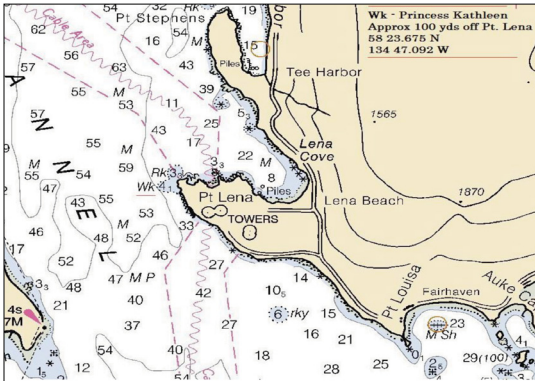


photo courtesy of the Juneau-Douglas Museum

Princess Kathleen Assessment Operations

The 369-foot Princess Kathleen, a Canadian Pacific Railroad vessel built in 1925, grounded and sank near Lena Point in 1952 carrying an estimated 155,000 gallons of fuel. The Princess Kathleen now rests on a slope in 80 to 140 feet of water and continues to periodically cause small unrecoverable oil sheens in the area.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation coordinated efforts with Southeast Alaska Lighterage and Global Offshore Divers to use a Remotely Operated Vehicle to conduct an initial assessment of the vessel Princess Kathleen near Lena Point, February 17-18, 2010.

Divers plan on continuing the assessment beginning on or about March 6, 2010.

- What can you expect to see? A barge will be anchored in the vicinity of Lena Point. It will serve as a platform for divers to assess the amount of oil remaining in the shipwreck. There will also be vessels in the area deploying oil containment boom as a precautionary measure.
- Will there be any nighttime operations using bright lights? The Unified Command will not engage in night dive operations due to safety issues. The only instance in which night operations may take place is in the event of an unforeseen incident.
- Will there be an increase in vehicle traffic along Point Lena Loop Road? Traffic is dependent upon community interest in the Princess Kathleen Assessment operations. During initial dive operations the Unified Command will have personnel onscene to answer questions at Point Lena.
- How much oil remains onboard the Princess Kathleen? The historical estimate is 155,000 gallons of No. 6 bunker oil which is based upon an unknown source that the vessel bunkered fuel in Juneau. One of the goals of the dive assessment is to find out how much oil is in the Princess Kathleen and to determine if oil needs to be removed at a later date.
- Why is the USCG and ADEC deciding to address this situation now if it has been a chronic pollution source for many years? In the past six months, the USCG has received an increase in reports of an oil sheen present in the Point Lena area. Also, the technology now exists which allows for an unobtrusive assessment of the shipwreck.

Useful links to online information:

www.DEC.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen

[www.docstoc.com/docs/22800656/Wreck-Oil-Removal-Program-\(WORP\)](http://www.docstoc.com/docs/22800656/Wreck-Oil-Removal-Program-(WORP))